

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 as follows:

1. (Original) An object lens, comprising
 - a first optical system that obtains a magnified image of an object;
 - a second optical system that guides dark field illumination light to the object;
 - a barrel that contains the first optical system and the second optical system and has an optical path around the first optical system for the dark field illumination light; and
 - a shield mechanism that is disposed on the optical path and that varies the incident area of the dark field illumination light to shield the dark field illumination light.

2. (Original) The object lens as set forth in claim 1,
 - wherein the shield mechanism has a plurality of shield plates and layered in the direction of the optical axis of the first optical system, the shield plates can be opened/closed by rotating about the optical axis so as to vary the incident area of the dark field illumination.

3. (Original) The object lens as set forth in claim 2,
 - wherein the barrel has a hold member that holds the first optical system, and
 - wherein each of the shield plates has:
 - a first fit portion that fits the hold member so that each of the shield plates can be opened/closed; and
 - a second fit portion that causes each of the shield plates to be rotated together while the first fit portion fits the hold member so that the shield plates are opened/closed.

4. (Original) The object lens as set forth in claim 3,
 - wherein the second fit portion has:
 - a fit protrusion that is disposed on the upside of each of the shield plates and that fits the upper adjacent shield plate, and

a guide groove that is disposed on the underside of each of the shield plates and that fits the fit protrusion of the lower adjacent shield plate and guides the fit protrusion when each of the shield plates is opened/closed.

5. (Original) The object lens as set forth in claim 3,
wherein the second fit portion has:

a fit protrusion that is disposed on the underside of each of the shield plates and that fits the lower adjacent shield plate, and

a guide groove that is disposed on the upside of each of the shield plates and that fits the fit protrusion of the upper adjacent shield plate and guides the fit protrusion when each of the shield plates is opened/closed.

6. (Original) The object lens as set forth in claim 3,

wherein when each of the shield plates that are fit are rotated so that the incident area becomes the minimum, the shield plates overlap each other for a predetermined area.

7. (Original) The object lens as set forth in claim 2,

wherein at least one of the shield plates has a handle member that protrudes from the barrel.

8. (Original) The object lens as set forth in claim 3,

wherein the shield mechanism has:

a first shield plate group of the shield plates, the first shield plate group being rotatable together; and

a second shield plate group of the shield plates, the second shield plate group being rotatable together, the second shield plate group being operable independently from the first shield plate group.

9. (Original) A condenser, comprising:

a diaphragm mechanism that restricts dark field illumination light in a ring shape;

a condenser lens that guides the dark field illumination light restricted by the diaphragm mechanism to an object; and

an shield mechanism that varies the incident area of the dark field illumination light that enters the condenser lens so as to shield the dark field illumination light.

10. (Original) The condenser as set forth in claim 9,

wherein the shield mechanism has a plurality of shield plates and layered in the direction of the optical axis of the condenser lens, the shield plates can be opened/closed by rotating about the optical axis so as to vary the incident area of the dark field illumination.

11. (Currently Amended) The condenser as set forth in claim ~~11~~10,

further comprising:

a rotation shaft that rotates the shield plates,

wherein each of the shield plates has:

a first fit portion that fits the rotation shaft so that each of the shield plates can be opened/closed; and

a second fit portion that causes each of the shield plates to be rotated together while the first fit portion fits the hold member so that the shield plates are opened/closed.

12. (Currently Amended) The condenser as set forth in claim ~~12~~11,

wherein the second fit portion has:

a fit protrusion that is disposed on the upside of each of the shield plates and that fits the upper adjacent shield plate, and

a guide groove that is disposed on the underside of each of the shield plates and that fits the fit protrusion of the lower adjacent shield plate and guides the fit protrusion when each of the shield plates is opened/closed.

13. (Currently Amended) The condenser as set forth in claim ~~12~~11,

wherein the second fit portion has:

a fit protrusion that is disposed on the underside of each of the shield plates and that fits the lower adjacent shield plate, and

a guide groove that is disposed on the upside of each of the shield plates and that fits the fit protrusion of the upper adjacent shield plate and guides the fit protrusion when each of the shield plates is opened/closed.

14. (Currently Amended) The condenser as set forth in claim ~~12~~11,

wherein when each of the shield plates that are fit are rotated so that the incident area becomes the minimum, the shield plates overlap each other for a predetermined area.

15. (Currently Amended) The condenser as set forth in claim ~~11~~10,

wherein at least one of the shield plates has a handle member with which the shield plates are opened/closed.

16. (Currently Amended) The condenser as set forth in claim ~~12~~11,

wherein the shield mechanism has:

a first shield plate group of the shield plates, the first shield plate group being rotatable together; and

a second shield plate group of the shield plates, the second shield plate group being rotatable together, the second shield plate group being operable independently from the first shield plate group.